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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina

DATE DISTR. 17 Oct. 1951

SUBJECT Disposition of Democratic Republic of Vietnam
Forces in the Lai Chau Area

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS PREVIOUSLY
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1. The following is the disposition of Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) divisions¹ in the Lai Chau area of northwest Tonkin as of 15 October 1951:

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- a. The 308 Division moved northwest from Tuyen Quang on 10-12 October towards Bao Ha (104-21, 22-10) and Lao Kay. The Division plans to encircle Phong Tho² and Lai Chau in preparation for the second phase of the DRV offensive in the Thai country.
- b. The 312 Division has been assigned to check enemy forces on the southeast front. Elements of the division are now moving to the northwest. These include the 165 and 148 Regiments which are heading towards Pou San Kap, 40 kilometers south southeast of Phong Tho, and the area southwest of Binh Lu in order to support the operations of the 308 Division in the northeast sector. Engagements have already occurred near Binh Lu and at Phong Tho.
- c. The 304 Division, formerly south of Son La, is now moving north to take up positions between Son La and Lai Chau.
- d. The 320 Division, formerly in the Cho Bo area, is moving northeast to a position northeast of Son La.

2. It is rumored in DRV military circles that the current Thai country operations are being launched as the result of Chinese Communist pressure and are designed to clear up this area to permit the movement of troops into High Laos.³

1. [REDACTED] Comment. According [REDACTED] from another source, it was decided at a military conference in Yan Bay, 1-15 October 1951, that one unit from each DRV division participate in the current attacks. Possibly the present report refers to elements of these divisions and not to the divisions as a whole.

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2. ~~██████████~~ Comment. According to ~~██~~ Phong Tho has been taken by DRV forces.

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3. ~~██████████~~ Comment. It is possible these operations are intended to pave the way for a Chinese Communist invasion through Burma to Indochina or from Yunnan into Indochina and Thailand.

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